



Palmer sealed title with race-three win



BRDC FORMULA 4 DONINGTON PARK, SEPTEMBER 12-13 MSVR

Palmer secures title with pair of wins

NOT EVEN A POOR START AND A five-second penalty in race one could stop Will Palmer's inevitable march to the BRDC Formula 4 title at Donington Park last weekend, where his HHC Motorsport team took all three wins.

Palmer and his HHC team-mate Harrison Newey locked out the front row in qualifying – although it was Newey who chalked up his second pole of the season. Newey then led every lap of race one, despite a malfunctioning dashboard display, to record his first ever BRDC F4 race win.

"[I'm] really happy with that," he said. "I've been waiting a while, but I always knew I had the pace. I've been on the second step quite a lot this season and to finally get onto the top step was really good."

Behind Newey, Palmer got what he described as an "awful" start, suffering with wheelspin and dropping down to sixth after also running wide at Turn 1. But, despite then getting a penalty for not respecting track limits, everything went Palmer's way for the rest of the weekend.

First, Tom Jackson, who had been Palmer's closest championship challenger, spun out of second place in race one after his brake bias adjustments stopped working and he was forced to "rallycross across the Old Hairpin", dropping him all but out of the title fight. Palmer then fought his way back through the order and recovered to finish

a close second to Newey, as Ameya Vaidyanathan claimed the final podium spot in third.

Polesitter Jordan Albert was judged to have jumped the start of race two and was handed a 10-second penalty, while Palmer made his way up from seventh in the reverse grid race. More fortune went the HHC driver's way as, seconds after he took fourth place at Goddards, Chris Mealin and Omar Ismail came together on the exit of the corner and Palmer sailed gratefully into the virtual lead. He then passed Albert to lead on the road for good measure as he "had no idea about the penalties, so I was just fully focused on getting through to the front."

Albert finished second on the road but ended up eighth with his penalty, so Jack

Bartholomew scored his best result of the season in second, and Vaidyanathan made it two podiums in a row after passing Cianan Haggerty on the final lap.

"It was a bit confusing with the time penalties and everything, and at that stage I was just making sure I didn't get one as well," said Vaidyanathan. Ismail had crossed the line in third but was one of several drivers given a five-second penalty for not respecting track limits and dropped to fifth.

Despite having his lead wiped out twice due to safety cars, Palmer then led dominantly away from pole position to take his 10th win of the season and claim the title with a round to spare in race three.

"It's amazing, and to do it with a win is even better," said Palmer after securing the title.



Newey leads the pack into Redgate

"I've had good pace [all year], which has made my life a lot easier for most of the race ones and race threes, where I've been able to score big points."

Rodrigo Fonseca had a rapid getaway to seize second at the start of race three, but he couldn't attack Palmer on the two restarts, while Newey recovered from a slower start to complete the podium.

● Alex Kalinauckas



Newey celebrated his first win in cars

RESULTS

RACE ONE (12 LAPS) 1 Harrison Newey 18m19.254s (97.61mph); 2 Will Palmer +5.294s; 3 Ameya Vaidyanathan; 4 Cianan Haggerty; 5 Omar Ismail; 6 Jack Bartholomew. **FL** Palmer 1m30.092s (99.39mph), **P** Newey, 5 18.

RACE TWO (12 LAPS) 1 Palmer 18m18.083s (97.73mph); 2 Bartholomew +8.886s; 3 Vaidyanathan; 4 Haggerty; 5 Ismail; 6 Tom Jackson. **FL** Palmer 1m29.807s (99.70mph), 5 18.

RACE THREE (12 LAPS) 1 Palmer 20m12.493s (81.12mph); 2 Rodrigo Fonseca +4.490s; 3 Newey; 4 Herman Fallas; 5 Haggerty; 6 Ismail. **FL** Palmer 1m30.457s (98.99mph), 5 18.

POINTS 1 Palmer, 507; 2 Newey, 388; 3 Jackson, 379; 4 Haggerty, 356; 5 Fonseca, 344; 6 Albert, 307.